

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 3-28, 30-45, 47-49, 53-57, 59 and 63-66 stand rejected.

Claims 67 and 68 are newly added.

Section 112 Rejections

As requested, claim 24 has been corrected. The claim now recites that information is recorded on a recording medium by a recording means.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 66 have been rejected as being anticipated by Kori. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Amended claim 1 now includes features which are not suggested by the cited reference, namely:

- a first type of encrypting to produce **a first plurality of encrypted data by using multiple keys,**
- **a second plurality of encrypted content keys** obtained by subjecting the multiple keys to a second type of encrypting,
- [digital data] are recorded on a **removable** recording medium . . .
- the encrypted digital data is decrypted by using the multiple keys obtained by decrypting the encrypted contents keys,

- the encrypted contents key is recorded in a data area on the recording medium, from which **data is not output outside**,
- **the first plurality of encrypted data and the second plurality of encrypted content keys are recorded on the same removable recording medium**,
- **time periods of the first plurality of encrypted data and time periods of the second plurality of encrypted content keys are switched at regular or irregular intervals**, and
- **the switching intervals are controlled by the set top box.**

Claim 1 has been amended to better set forth that there are a first plurality of encrypted data and a second plurality of encrypted content keys. Both, the first plurality of encrypted data and the second plurality of encrypted content keys are recorded on the same removable recording medium. Furthermore, amended claim 1 recites that time periods of the first plurality of encrypted data and time periods of the second plurality of encrypted content keys are switched at regular or irregular intervals. Moreover, amended claim 1 recites that the switching intervals are controlled by the set top box.

Basis for amended claim 1 may be seen, for example, in Fig. 4. As shown, the first plurality of encrypted data is recorded in a main area and the second plurality of encrypted content keys are recorded in a sub-area. As discussed, for example, in the specification at page 24, bottom paragraph, the time intervals for each of the plurality of encrypted data and the plurality of encrypted content keys may be switched at regular or irregular intervals. Furthermore, the switching is controlled by a set top box, as shown in Fig. 2, for example.

Kori discloses a data recording/reproducing method wherein encrypted digital data is obtained by subjecting the digital data to encryption by using a contents key. Kori, however, does **not** disclose recording the encrypted contents key in a data area on a recording medium from which **data is not output externally**. Furthermore, Kori does **not** disclose a **first plurality of encrypted data and a second plurality of encrypted content keys** which are

recorded on the same removable recording medium. Moreover, Kori does **not** suggest **time periods of the first plurality of encrypted data and time periods of the second plurality of encrypted content keys being switched at regular or irregular intervals.** Finally, Kori does **not** suggest that **the switching intervals are controlled by a set top box.**

Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 1 and its dependent claim 66.

Newly Added Claim 67

Newly added claim 67 further limits claim 1 by reciting that

- a **current encrypted content key** used for encrypting a portion of the digital data is **recorded concurrently** with a **next encrypted content key** used for encrypting another portion of the digital data.

Basis for newly added claim 67 may be seen, for example, in Fig. 4. As shown, the sub-area of the recording medium includes a plurality of current content keys and a plurality of next content keys. As may be seen, **the next content key is recorded concurrently with the current content key.** As also discussed in the specification, for example, at page 25, line 6, to page 26, line 8, by concurrently recording the current content key and the next content key, the invention advantageously causes reduced lost time during reproduction.

The features of newly added claim 67 are not disclosed or suggested by Kori. Favorable consideration is requested for newly added claim 67.

Section 103 Rejections

Claim 3 (which depends from claim 1) has been rejected as being obvious in view of Kori and Schultz. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Schultz does not suggest the features of amended claim 1 (discussed above).

The Office Action states that Schultz teaches a method of switching the content keys at regular intervals. Schultz, however, does **not** disclose **switching a plurality of encrypted data and a plurality of encrypted content keys** at regular or irregular intervals **by a set top box**. Favorable reconsideration is requested for claim 3.

Although not the same, claim 4 has been amended to include features similar to amended claim 1. More specifically, claim 4 has been amended to include the following features:

- the encrypted contents key is deleted, if the encrypted contents key satisfies a predetermined condition.

As amended, claim 4 now overcomes the rejection of being obvious in view of Tsukamoto and Kori. Tsukamoto discloses a data recording/reproducing system that includes contents encrypting means for receiving digital data and a contents key for encrypting the digital data. The Office Action admitted that Tsukamoto does **not** explicitly teach a key-encrypting method for an encryption key, nor a method for decrypting the encrypted key. Furthermore, Tsukamoto does **not** disclose or suggest the feature of amended claim 4, namely, that the encrypted contents key is deleted, if the encrypted contents key satisfies a predetermined condition.

Furthermore (as discussed with respect to claim 1), Kori does **not** disclose the feature recited in claim 4 of an encrypted contents key being recorded in a data area on a recording medium in which the **data is not provided to the outside**. Favorable reconsideration is requested for amended claim 4.

Dependent claims 3, 5-28 and 30-38 depend, respectively, from claim 1 and claim 4. These claims, therefore, are not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 1 and claim 4.

Independent claims 39 and 53 have been rejected as being obvious in view of Tsukamoto and Kori. Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are overcome for the reasons set forth below.

Claim 39 includes features which are not suggested by the cited references, namely:

- storing means for storing the key-encrypting key and for deleting the key-encrypting key hereafter if the key-encrypting key satisfies a predetermined condition,
- the predetermined condition is satisfied, if the key-encrypting key was stored on a previous date that is less than a specific number of days from a current date, or if a number of reproductions of the digital data is less than a specific number of reproductions...

As admitted by the Office Action, Tsukamoto does **not** teach a key-encrypting means for generating a key-encrypting key and subjecting the contents key to second encrypting.

Kori discloses that **when the contents are deleted, the encrypting key is also inevitably deleted**. Kori, therefore, does **not** disclose only **deleting the key-encrypting key if a certain predetermined condition is satisfied**. This predetermined condition is satisfied, as explicitly recited in claim 39, if the key-encrypting key was stored on a date which is less than a specific number of days from a current date. These features are not disclosed by Kori. Favorable reconsideration is again requested for claim 39.

Although not the same, claim 53 includes features similar to claim 39. Claim 53, therefore, is not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for the same reasons set forth for claim 39. Favorable reconsideration is requested..

Claims 40-45, 47-49, 54-57, 59 and 63-65 depend, respectively, from independent claims 39 and 53 and are, therefore, not subject to rejection in view of the cited references for at least the same reasons set forth for amended claim 39.

Newly Added Claim 68

Newly added claim 68 includes features recited in claim 1 and claim 39.

Claim 68, at a minimum, includes the following:

- storing means for storing the key-encrypting key and for deleting the key-encrypting key hereafter if the key-encrypting key satisfies a predetermined condition,
- the predetermined condition is satisfied if the key-encrypting key was stored on a previous date that is less than a specific number of days from a current date, or if a number of reproductions of the digital data is less than a specific number of reproductions,
- the encrypted contents key is stored in a data area on the recording medium, from which data is not output outside.


These features are similar to the features recited in claim 4. Favorable consideration is requested for newly added claim 68 for at least the same reasons set forth for claim 4.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 3-28, 30-45, 47-49, 53-57, 59 and 63-66 are in condition for allowance.

Newly added claims 67 and 68 are also in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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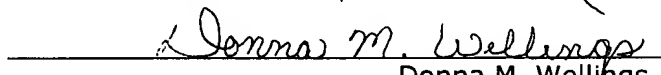
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